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Executive Committee

RENEGOTIATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL NATURAL RUBBER AGREEMENT, 1987

Proposals submitted by the President on articles 3, 5, 21, 33, 35, and 37

CHAPTER III. ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Article 3

Establishment, headquarters and structure of the International Natural Rubber Organization

1. The International Natural Rubber Organization, established by the International Natural Rubber Agreement, 1979, shall continue in being for the purpose of administering the provisions and supervising the operation of this Agreement.

2. The Organization shall function through the International Natural Rubber Council, its Executive Director and its staff, and such other bodies as are provided for in this Agreement.

3. Subject to the requirement in paragraph 4 of this article, the headquarters of the Organization shall be in Kuala Lumpur, unless the Council, by special vote, decides otherwise.

4. The headquarters of the Organization shall at all times be located in the territory of a member.

Article 5

Membership by intergovernmental organizations

1. Any reference in this Agreement to a "Government" or "Governments" shall be construed as including a reference to the European Community and to any intergovernmental organization having responsibilities in respect of the negotiation, conclusion and application of international agreements, in particular commodity agreements. Accordingly, any reference in this Agreement to signature, ratification, acceptance or approval, or to notification of provisional application, or to accession shall, in the case of such intergovernmental organizations, be construed as including a reference to signature, ratification, acceptance or approval, or to notification of provisional application, or to accession, by such intergovernmental organizations.

2. In the case of votes on matters within their competence, such intergovernmental organizations shall exercise their voting rights with a number of votes equal to the total number of votes attributed, in accordance with article 14, to their member States. In such cases, the member States of such intergovernmental organizations shall not exercise their individual voting rights.

CHAPTER VI. ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Article 21

Financial accounts

1. For the operation and administration of this Agreement, there shall be established two accounts :

(a) The Buffer Stock Account; and

(b) The Administrative Account.

2. All the following receipts and expenditures in the creation, operation and maintenance of the Buffer Stock shall be brought into the Buffer Stock Account: contributions from members under article 27, revenue from sales of or expenditure in respect of acquisition of buffer stocks; interest on deposits of the Buffer Stock Account; and costs relating to purchase and sales commissions, storage, transportation and handling, maintenance and rotation, and insurance. The Council may, however, by special vote, bring any other type of receipts or expenditures attributable to buffer stock transactions or operations into the Buffer Stock Account.

3. All other receipts and expenditures relating to the operation of this

Agreement shall be brought into the Administrative Account. Such expenditures shall normally be met by contributions from members assessed in accordance with article 24.

4. The Organization shall not be liable for the expenses of delegations or observers to the Council or to any committee established under article 18.

CHAPTER VIII. THE BUFFER STOCK

Article 33
Composition of buffer stocks

1. At its first session after the entry into force of this Agreement, the Council shall name the internationally recognized standard types and grades of ribbed smoked sheets and technically specified rubbers for inclusion in the Buffer Stock, provided that the following criteria are met:

(a) The lowest types and grades of natural rubber authorized for inclusion in the Buffer Stock shall be RSS 3 and TSR 20; and

(b) All types and grades allowed under subparagraph (a) of this paragraph which account for at least 3 per cent of the previous calendar year's international trade in natural rubber shall be named.

2. The Council may, by special vote, change these criteria and/or the selected types/grades if that is necessary to ensure that the composition of the Buffer Stock reflects the evolving market situation, attainment of the stabilization objectives of this Agreement and the need to maintain a high commercial standard of quality of buffer stocks.

3. The Buffer Stock Manager must make every effort to ensure that the composition of the Buffer Stock closely reflects the export/import patterns for natural rubber, while promoting the stabilization objectives of this Agreement.

4. The Council may, by special vote, direct the Buffer Stock Manager to change the composition of the Buffer Stock if the objective of price stabilization so dictates.

Article 35

Maintaining the quality of the buffer stocks

The Buffer Stock Manager shall ensure that all buffer stocks are purchased and maintained at a high commercial standard of quality. To help him achieve this, he may rotate natural rubber stored in the Buffer Stock as necessary to ensure such standards, taking into appropriate consideration the cost of such rotation and its impact on the stability of the market. The costs of rotation shall be brought into the Buffer Stock Account.

Article 37
Penalties relating to contributions to the Buffer Stock Account

1. If a member does not fulfil its obligation to contribute to the Buffer Stock Account by the last day such contribution becomes due, it shall be considered to be in arrears. A member in arrears for 60 days or more shall not count as a member for the purpose of voting on matters covered in paragraph 2 of this article.

2. The voting and other rights in the Council of a member in arrears for 60 days or more under paragraph 1 of this article shall be suspended, unless the Council, by special vote, decides otherwise.

3. A member in arrears shall bear interest charges at the prime rate in the host country beginning on the last day such payments become due. Coverage of arrears by the remaining importing and exporting members shall be on a voluntary basis.

4. A member shall not be considered as in arrears if any shortfall in its contribution is only a result of fluctuations in currency exchange rates in the 60 days following the call for payments. In this case, no interest will be charged on the shortfall. However, any such shortfall should be covered by the member within the 60 days following the initial payment.

5. When the default has been remedied to the satisfaction of the Council, the voting and other rights of the member in arrears for 60 days or more shall be restored. If the arrears have been made good by other members, these members shall be fully reimbursed.